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(54) Title: COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR CVD DEPOSITION OF Zr/Hf SILICATE FILMS

(57) Abstract: A precursor composition for forming zirconium and/or hafnium silicate film on a substrate, e.g., by chemical vapor deposition (CVD). Illustrative precursor compositions include (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including a silicon alcoxide (siloxide) ligand coordinated to a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf and (2) a second precursor metal compound or complex including an aliphatic alcoxide ligand coordinated to a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the M/Si ratio in the deposited silicate thin film. The precursor composition may contain a solvent medium, so that the composition is adapted for liquid delivery CVD, to form stable thin-film gate dielectrics for fabrication of microelectronic devices.

Composition and Method for CVD Deposition of Zr/Hf Silicate Films.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to a source reagent composition and method for the formation of
10 Zr/Hf silicate thin film gate dielectric structures for microelectronic devices.

Description of the Related Art

The formation of stable gate dielectric thin films is an increasingly important focus of
15 microelectronic device research and development efforts.

Zirconium silicate (ZrSiO_4) and hafnium silicate (HfSiO_4) are potentially useful materials for such
gate dielectric thin films on silicon substrates. The source reagents and methodology employed to
form such gate dielectric thin films are extremely critical for the provision of a gate structure
20 having satisfactory characteristics in the product device. Specifically, the source reagents and
methodology must permit the gate dielectric thin film to form on a clean silicon surface, without
the occurrence of side reactions producing predominantly silicon dioxide (SiO_2), locally doped
 SiO_2 and/or other surface impurities that lower the dielectric constant and compromise the
performance of the product microelectronic device.

25

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates in one aspect to a precursor composition for forming a metal silicate thin-film dielectric on a substrate, such precursor composition including a source reagent selected from the group consisting of:

- 5 (a) single source precursors for forming zirconium silicate thin films, wherein the precursor is a compound or coordinated complex containing Zr, O and Si as constituents thereof;
- (b) single source precursors for forming hafnium silicate thin films, wherein the precursor is a compound or coordinated complex containing Hf, O and Si as constituents thereof;
- (c) a precursor mixture comprising (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including
10 a silicon alcoxide (siloxide) ligand coordinated to a metal M, wherein $M = \text{Zr or Hf}$ and (2) a second precursor metal compound or complex including an aliphatic alcoxide ligand coordinated to a metal M, wherein $M = \text{Zr or Hf}$, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M/Si ratio in the deposited silicate thin film;
- 15 (d) a precursor mixture comprising (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein $M = \text{Zr or Hf}$ and (2) a second precursor silicon compound or complex not containing such metal M, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M_x/Si_{1-x} ratio in the deposited silicate thin film, wherein x is from about 0.01 to 0.99;
- 20 (e) a precursor mixture comprising (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein $M = \text{Zr or Hf}$ and (2) a second precursor silicon compound or complex additionally containing such metal M, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M_x/Si_{1-x} ratio in the deposited silicate thin film, wherein x is from about 0.01 to 0.99;

- (f) a precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf, at least one alcoxide ligand and at least one β -diketonate ligand, such precursor metal compound or complex optionally further containing silicon;
- (g) the precursor metal compound or complex (d) wherein the second precursor silicon compound or complex not containing such metal M is a gas at STP, e.g. silane, and the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M_x/Si_{1-x} ratio in the deposited silicate thin film, wherein x is from about 0.01 to 0.99;
- (h) a precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf, at least one alcoxide ligand and at least one β -diketonate ligand, such precursor metal compound or complex optionally further containing silicon;
- (i) the precursor metal compound or complex (e) not containing silicon, in combination with a second silicon-containing precursor compound or complex;
- (j) the precursor metal compound or complex (e) further containing silicon, in combination with a second non-silicon-containing precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf; and
- (k) compatible mixtures of any two or more of the foregoing species (a)-(i).

The precursor composition may further comprise a solvent medium, e.g., a solvent selected from the group consisting of ethers, glymes, tetraglymes, amines, polyamines, alcohols, glycols, aliphatic hydrocarbon solvents, aromatic hydrocarbon solvents, cyclic ethers (e.g., tetrahydrofuran, etc.), and compatible combinations of two or more of the foregoing.

Another aspect of the invention relates to a method of forming a metal silicate gate dielectric film on a substrate, comprising vaporizing a precursor composition to form a precursor vapor, and contacting the precursor vapor with a substrate at elevated temperature to deposit the metal silicate

gate dielectric film on the substrate, wherein the precursor composition includes a source reagent selected from the group consisting of:

- 5 (a) single source precursors for forming zirconium silicate thin films, wherein the precursor is a compound or coordinated complex containing Zr, O and Si as constituents thereof;
- (b) single source precursors for forming hafnium silicate thin films, wherein the precursor is a compound or coordinated complex containing Hf, O and Si as constituents thereof;
- 10 (c) a precursor mixture comprising (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including a silicon alcoxide (siloxide) ligand coordinated to a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf and (2) a second precursor metal compound or complex including an aliphatic alcoxide ligand coordinated to a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M/Si ratio in the deposited silicate thin film;
- 15 (d) a precursor mixture comprising (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf and (2) a second precursor silicon compound or complex not containing such metal M, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M/Si ratio in the deposited silicate thin film;
- 20 (e) a precursor mixture comprising (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf and (2) a second precursor silicon compound or complex additionally containing such metal M, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M/Si ratio in the deposited silicate thin film;
- 25 (f) a precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf, at least one alcoxide ligand and at least one β -diketonate ligand, such precursor metal compound or complex optionally further containing silicon;

- (g) the precursor metal compound or complex (d) wherein the second precursor silicon compound or complex not containing such metal M is a gas at STP, e.g. silane, and the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M_x/Si_{1-x} ratio in the deposited silicate thin film, wherein x is from about 0.01 to 0.99;
- (h) the precursor metal compound or complex (e) not containing silicon, in combination with a second silicon-containing precursor compound or complex;
- (i) the precursor metal compound or complex (e) further containing silicon, in combination with a second non-silicon-containing precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf; and
- (j) compatible mixtures of any two or more of the foregoing species (a)-(i).

As used herein, the term "thin film" refers to a material layer having a thickness of less than about 100 microns.

Other aspects, features and embodiments of the invention will be more fully apparent from the ensuing disclosure and appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a comparative TGA plot of $Zr(O-SiMe_3)_2(thd)_2$ and $Zr(thd)_4$ in argon using a heating rate of 10°C/min.

Figure 2 is an STA plot for $Si(O-SiMe_3)_4$.

Figure 3 is an STA plot for $Zr(O-SiMe_3)_2(thd)_2$.

Figure 4 is an STA plot for $\text{Si}(\text{O}-\text{SiMe}_3)_4$ and $\text{Zr}(\text{O}-\text{SiMe}_3)_2(\text{thd})_2$.

Figure 5 is an STA plot for $\text{Zr}(\text{O}-\text{SiEt}_3)_4$ single source precursor.

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**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION, AND PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS
THEREOF**

10 The disclosures of the following United States patents and patent applications are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their respective entireties:

- United States Patent Application No. 08/835,768 filed April 8, 1997 in the names of Thomas H. Baum, et al.;
- 15 • United States Patent Application No. 08/484,654 filed 7 June 1995 in the names of Robin A. Gardiner et al.;
- United States Patent Application No. 08/414,504 filed 31 March 1995 in the names of Robin A. Gardiner et al.;
- United States Application No. 08/280,143 filed July 25, 1994, in the names of Peter S.
20 Kirlin, et al.;
- United States Patent Application No. 07/927,134, filed August 7, 1992 in the same names;
- United States Patent Application No. 07/807,807, filed December 13, 1991 in the names of Peter S. Kirlin, et al., now issued as United States Patent No. 5,204,314;
- 25 • United States Application No. 08/181,800 filed January 15, 1994 in the names of Peter S. Kirlin, et al., and issued as United States Patent 5,453,494;

- United States Application No. 07/918,141 filed July 22, 1992 in the names of Peter S. Kirlin, et al., and issued January 18, 1994 as United States Patent 5,280,012;
- United States Application No. 07/615,303 filed November 19, 1990;
- United States Application No. 07/581,631 filed September 12, 1990 in the names of
5 Peter S. Kirlin, et al., and issued July 6, 1993 as U.S. Patent 5,225,561; and
- United States Patent Application No. 07/549,389 filed July 6, 1990 in the names of
Peter S. Kirlin, et al.

10 The above-identified applications and patents variously describe source reagent compositions and their synthesis and formulation, as well as CVD techniques including liquid delivery CVD, and provide background and assistive information with respect to the practice of the present invention.

The present invention relates to a source reagent composition and method for forming zirconium silicate and/or hafnium silicate gate dielectric thin films for semiconductor manufacture.

15

The source reagent composition of the invention may be variously formulated, as hereinafter more fully described, and include the following:

- (a) single source precursors for forming zirconium silicate thin films, wherein the precursor is
20 a compound or coordinated complex containing Zr, O and Si as constituents thereof;
- (b) single source precursors for forming hafnium silicate thin films, wherein the precursor is a compound or coordinated complex containing Hf, O and Si as constituents thereof;
- (c) a precursor mixture comprising (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including
25 a silicon alcoxide (siloxide) ligand coordinated to a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf and (2)
a second precursor metal compound or complex including an aliphatic alcoxide ligand

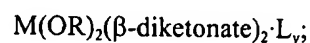
coordinated to a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M_x/Si_{1-x} ratio in the deposited silicate thin film, wherein x is from about 0.01 to 0.99;

- 5 (d) a precursor mixture comprising (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf and (2) a second precursor silicon compound or complex not containing such metal M, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M_x/Si_{1-x} ratio in the deposited silicate thin film, wherein x is from about 0.01 to 0.99;
- 10 (e) a precursor mixture comprising (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf and (2) a second precursor silicon compound or complex additionally containing such metal M, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M_x/Si_{1-x} ratio in the deposited silicate thin film, wherein x is from about 0.01 to 0.99;
- 15 (f) a precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf, at least one alcoxide ligand and at least one β -diketonate ligand, such precursor metal compound or complex optionally further containing silicon;
- (g) the precursor metal compound or complex (d) wherein the second precursor silicon compound or complex not containing such metal M is a gas at STP, e.g. silane and the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M_x/Si_{1-x} ratio in the deposited silicate thin film, wherein x is from about 0.01 to 0.99;
- 20 (h) the precursor metal compound or complex (e) not containing silicon, in combination with a second silicon-containing precursor compound or complex;

- (i) the precursor metal compound or complex (e) further containing silicon, in combination with a second non-silicon-containing precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf; and
- (j) compatible mixtures of any two or more of the foregoing species (a)-(i).

5

The precursor formulations of the present invention may be employed in an adducted form as suggested by the formulae:



10



wherein each R is independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₈ alkyl and trialkylsilyl whose alkyl substituents are each independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₈ alkyl; L is a Lewis base ligand and y is from about ½ to 8.

15

Alternatively the precursor formulations of the present invention may be represented by the formula:



wherein each R is independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₈ alkyl and trialkylsilyl whose alkyl substituents are each independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₈ alkyl and L may be a Lewis base contained in the ligand species capable of bonding to the metal center.

20

25

The precursor formulations of the invention may be employed in liquid delivery CVD to form corresponding metal (Zr and/or Hf) silicate thin films on a substrate or microelectronic device precursor structure as a gate dielectric layer thereon.

In liquid delivery CVD, the source liquid may comprise the source reagent compound or complex *per se*, if the compound or complex is in the liquid phase at ambient temperature (e.g., room temperature, 25°C) or other supply temperature from which the source reagent is rapidly heated and vaporized to form precursor vapor for the CVD process. Alternatively, if the source reagent compound or complex is a solid at ambient or the supply temperature, such compound or complex can be dissolved or suspended in a compatible solvent medium therefor to provide a liquid phase composition that can be submitted to the rapid heating and vaporization to form precursor vapor for the CVD process. The precursor vapor resulting from the vaporization then is transported, optionally in combination with a carrier gas (e.g., He, Ar, H₂, O₂, etc.), to the chemical vapor deposition reactor where the vapor is contacted with a substrate at elevated temperature to deposit material from the vapor phase onto the substrate or semiconductor device precursor structure positioned in the CVD reactor.

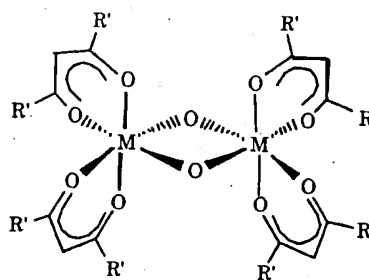
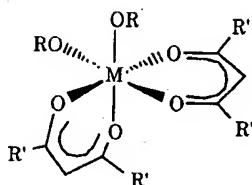
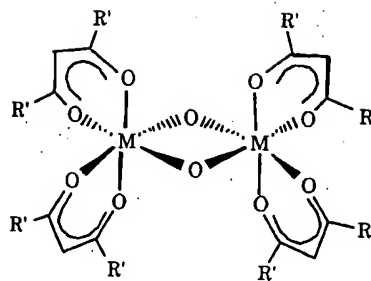
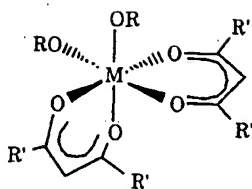
Preferred metal silicon alcoxide compounds of the invention include those of the formula:



wherein M is Zr or Hf;

each R is independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₈ alkyl and trialkylsilyl whose alkyl substituents are each independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₈ alkyl.

Particularly preferred metal alcoxide β-diketonate compounds of the invention include those of the formulae:



5 wherein:

M is Zr or Hf;

each R is independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₈ alkyl and trialkylsilyl whose alkyl substituents are each independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₈ alkyl; and
each R' is independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₈ alkyl and C₁-C₈ haloalkyl.

10

Thus, the β -diketonate moiety of the above metal precursors may for example comprise

2,4-pentanedione

acac;

1,1,1-trifluoro-2,4-pentanedionato

tfac;

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1,1,1,5,5,5-hexafluoro-2,4-pentanedionato | hfac; |
| 2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-3,5-heptanedionato | thd; |
| 2,2,7-trimethyl-3,5-octanedionato | tod; |
| 6,6,7,7,8,8-heptafluoro-2,2-dimethyl-3,5-octanedionato | fod; |
| 5 etc. | |

One particularly preferred metal precursor of the above type has each R = t-butyl or trialkylsilyl, e.g., trimethylsilyl and each R' = t-butyl.

- 10 Mixed alcoxide β -diketonate complexes of Zr and/or Hf may be employed, either with or without silicon constituents therein. Examples of silicon-containing complexes of such type include $\text{Zr}(\text{OSiMe}_3)_2(\text{thd})_2$, $\text{Zr}(\text{OSiMe}_3)_4$, $\text{Hf}(\text{OSiMe}_3)_4$, $\text{Hf}(\text{OSiMe}_3)_2(\text{thd})_2$; these complexes are single source precursors, since the metal, silicon and oxygen components of the desired zirconium silicate film and/or hafnium silicate are derived from such single precursor species.

15

If such mixed alcoxide β -diketonate complexes do not contain silicon, they may be suitably used in combination with silicon precursor(s) to yield the product metal silicate film. If such mixed alcoxide β -diketonate complexes do contain silicon, they may be suitably used in combination with a non-silicon-containing Zr and/or Hf precursor, to provide a desired metal/silicon ratio in the product dielectric film. For example, an aliphatic alcoxide of hafnium, such as $\text{Hf}(\text{OiPr})_2(\text{thd})_2$, may be employed in combination with a second Si-containing precursor, such as a silicon alcoxide (siloxide)-containing precursor, to deposit films of HfSiO_4 .

20

By utilizing a precursor composition including two or more source reagent compounds or complexes, with one of the precursors containing at least part of the metal to be incorporated in the product dielectric metal silicate film, and another of the precursors containing at least part of the silicon to be incorporated in the product dielectric metal silicate film, it is possible by selection of

25

the proportions of such respective precursors to correspondingly vary the stoichiometric composition (metal/silicon ratio) of the metal silicate dielectric film, to obtain a desired character of structural and performance electrical properties in the product film. For example, a silicon source reagent, containing no metal, may be used in combination with a metal source reagent,
5 containing no silicon, to control Zr/Si or Hf/Si film ratios.

Alternatively, a first metal- and silicon-containing precursor may be employed in combination with either a metal-containing/silicon-free precursor or a metal-free/silicon-containing precursor, to achieve the desired film characteristics and film stoichiometry.

10

As mentioned hereinabove, a first metal- and silicon-containing precursor may be employed in combination with a precursor not containing such metal and the metal-free precursor may be a gas at STP, e.g. silane. Combination of such precursors in an oxidizing environment e.g. O_2 or N_2O , may be used to achieve the desired film characteristics and film stoichiometry.

15

By way of specific example, $Zr(OSiMe_3)_4$, and $Zr(O-tBu)_4$ may be mixed in a gas stream, e.g., in a carrier gas, or, more preferably, in a single "cocktail" solution in a solvent such as octane, to produce the appropriate stoichiometry in the deposited $ZrSiO_4$ thin-film. In an analogous manner, $Hf(OSiMe_3)_4$, and $Hf(O-tBu)_4$ may be mixed in the gas-phase or more preferably in a single
20 "cocktail" solution, for the deposition of a $HfSiO_4$ thin-film of the desired stoichiometry.

Other compatible aliphatic alcoxides may also be used with equal success in such applications.

The films produced in the broad practice of the invention include stoichiometric metal silicate
25 films, as well as off-stoichiometric (metal-deficient) films. Where the precursor composition includes different source reagents providing respectively differential metal and/or silicon content,

then the respective source reagents can be supplied in varied compositions to achieve desired stoichiometric characteristics in the corresponding product metal silicate films. In this manner, the electrical properties, including dielectric constant and leakage, can be controlled and closely tailored to a desired end use, such as a gate dielectric film in an integrated circuit.

5

Examples of film stoichiometries of the present invention of greatest interest are, for zirconium silicate, $Zr_{.20}/Si_{.80}$ and for hafnium silicate, $Hf_{.05}/Si_{.95}$.

10 In the deposition of $ZrSiO_4$ and $HfSiO_4$ thin-films by the use of two individual precursors, wherein one precursor contains silicon and a second precursor contains Zr/Hf, compatible chemistries are desired, thereby allowing mixing of the respective precursors with one another and the achievement of reproducible film growth processes, without deleterious effects such as solution degradation and particle formation.

15 For example, $Zr(O-tBu)_4$ may be utilized in combination with $Si(O-tBu)_4$, to form stoichiometric $ZrSiO_4$ thin films as gate dielectric materials. These two precursors may be mixed in an organic solvent, single solution as a "cocktail" or they may be introduced from two separate reservoirs and mixed in the gas stream to the CVD reactor. Other alcoxides of Zr/Hf and Si may be similarly employed with equivalent success, provided that the respective alcoxides do not produce
20 undesirable, non-degenerate ligand exchange(s) forming (undesired) new precursor species. It therefore is preferred to use the same alcoxide ligand species, e.g., methoxides, ethoxides, i-propoxides, t-butoxides, trialkylsiloxides, etc. for each of the metal and silicon precursors used in combination with one another.

25 It is, however, possible to use respective metal and silicon precursors, e.g., alcoxide precursors, regardless of ligand identity and ligand exchange mechanisms, by the use of techniques such as a

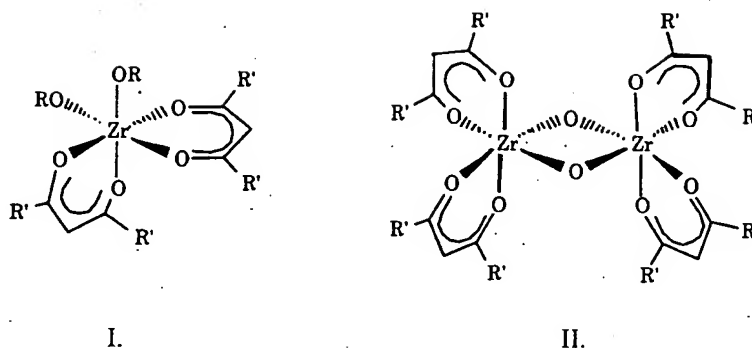
pulsed CVD method, in which the incompatible precursors are separated both temporally and in the introduction lines to limit particle formation and undesired ligand exchange reactions (chemical reactions).

- 5 Metal silicate films can be formed in the broad practice of the present invention by metal alcoxide β -diketonate mixtures in which one of the metal alcoxide β -diketonate precursors contains silicon, and a second of the metal alcoxide β -diketonate precursors does not contain silicon.

For example, a mixture of $\text{Zr}(\text{OSiMe}_3)_2(\text{thd})_2$, can be used in combination with a silicon-free precursor such as $\text{Zr}(\text{alcoxide})_2(\text{thd})_2$, $\text{Zr}(\text{thd})_4$, or $[\text{O}=\text{Zr}(\text{thd})_2]_2$, to deposit a zirconium silicate film, wherein the film stoichiometry is controlled by the relative ratios of the two precursor species. In this manner, a wide range of film compositions can be deposited. Corresponding hafnium precursor approaches may be employed for the formation of hafnium silicate films.

- 10 Figure 1 shows comparative TGA (thermogravimetric) plots of $\text{Zr}(\text{O-SiMe}_3)_2(\text{thd})_2$ and $\text{Zr}(\text{thd})_4$ in argon using a heating rate of $10^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$. The TGA trace of $\text{Zr}(\text{OSiMe}_3)_2(\text{thd})_2$ and TGA trace of $\text{Zr}(\text{thd})_4$ reveals that these co-reactants have advantageous properties for the controlled growth of ZrSiO_4 .

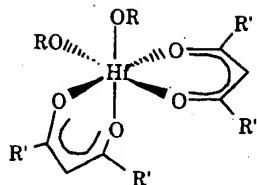
- 20 Specific illustrative zirconium precursors of the invention include those of the formulae:



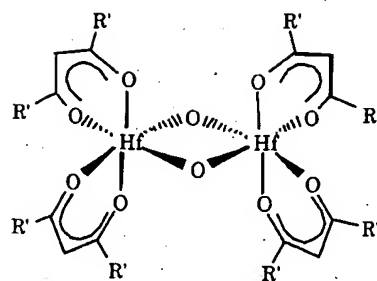
In the formula I complex, $\text{Zr}(\text{OR})_2(\beta\text{-diketonate})_2$, R may for example be t-butyl or trimethylsilyl and R' may be t-butyl. The β -diketonate in the formula I complex may for example be thd. The precursor may comprise a mixture of complexes of formula I, including a first precursor of such type wherein R is t-butyl, and a second precursor of such type wherein R is trimethylsilyl. A corresponding oxo-linked (-O-) dimer is shown in formula II, which may for example be used in combination with a complex of formula I wherein R is trimethylsilyl, to provide a precursor cocktail of source reagents for forming the zirconium silicate film. The oxo-linked (-O-) dimer may for example be oxo zirconium bis(thd) dimer, $[\text{O}=\text{Zr}(\text{thd})_2]_2$.

Thus, bis alcoxide molecular structures of I can be "tailored" to limit ligand exchange reactions when used in combination with a $\text{Zr}(\text{OSiMe}_3)_2(\beta\text{-diketonate})_2$ precursor in a common solvent medium; alternatively, the bis alcoxide precursor can be delivered in a separate solution using liquid delivery techniques. The zirconium "oxo" bis(diketonate) dimer of formula II can also be used as a Zr source without the introduction of Si content into the deposited film.

Corresponding considerations apply to the following analogous hafnium source reagents:



III.



IV.

In the foregoing hafnium source reagents of the formulae III and IV, the alkoxy substituent R in formula III may be methyl, ethyl, i-propyl, n-butyl or trimethylsilyl, and the substituent R' in the β -diketonate moiety of formulae III and IV may be alkyl, halo, haloalkyl (e.g., perfluoroalkyl), etc. wherein the alkyl substituent may be methyl, ethyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, t-butyl, etc.

The source reagents of the invention may be employed in liquid precursor compositions including any suitable solvent media that are compatible with the source reagent(s) used for forming a specific dielectric film. Illustrative of solvent media that may be variously usefully employed are ethers, glymes, tetraglymes, amines, polyamines, alcohols, glycols, aliphatic hydrocarbon solvents, aromatic hydrocarbon solvents, cyclic ethers, and compatible combinations of two or more of the foregoing.

The precursor liquid may be vaporized in any suitable manner and with any suitable vaporization means to form corresponding precursor vapor for contacting with the elevated temperature substrate on which the metal silicate dielectric film is to be formed. The vaporization may for example be carried out with a liquid delivery vaporizer unit of a type as commercially available from Advanced Technology Materials, Inc. (Danbury, CT) under the trademark VAPORSOURCE, in which precursor liquid is discharged onto a heated vaporization element, such as a porous sintered metal surface, and flash vaporized. The vaporizer may be arranged to receive a carrier gas

such as argon, helium, etc. and an oxygen-containing gas may be introduced as necessary to form the metal silicate film. The precursor vapor thus is flowed to the chemical vapor deposition chamber and contacted with the substrate on which the dielectric film is to be deposited. The substrate is maintained at a suitable elevated temperature during the deposition operation by means of a heating means such as a radiant heating assembly, a susceptor containing a resistance heating element, microwave heat generator, etc. Appropriate process conditions of temperature, pressure, flow rates and concentration (partial pressures) of metal and silicon components are maintained for sufficient time to form the dielectric film at the desired film thickness, e.g., in a range of from about 2 nanometers to about 500 micrometers in thickness, and with appropriate dielectric film characteristics.

Figures 2-5 show the thermal characteristics of illustrative source reagents usefully employed in the practice of the present invention. Figure 2 is an STA plot for $\text{Si}(\text{O}-\text{SiMe}_3)_4$ in argon gas. Figure 3 is an STA plot for $\text{Zr}(\text{O}-\text{SiMe}_3)_2(\text{thd})_2$ in argon gas. Figure 4 is an STA plot for $\text{Si}(\text{O}-\text{SiMe}_3)_4$ in argon gas and an STA plot for $\text{Zr}(\text{O}-\text{SiMe}_3)_2(\text{thd})_2$ in argon gas. Figure 5 is an STA plot for $\text{Zr}(\text{O}-\text{SiEt}_3)_4$ in argon gas.

The features, aspects and advantages of the present invention are further shown with reference to the following non-limiting examples relating to the invention.

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EXAMPLE 1

Synthesis of $\text{Zr}(\text{thd})_2(\text{O}-\text{SiMe}_3)_2$

Standard Schlenk and dry-box techniques were used with nitrogen as the inert gas.

25 a) $\text{Zr}(\text{thd})_2\text{Cl}_2$. A two-fold excess (four equivalents) of 2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-3,5-heptanedione (Hthd) was added dropwise to the refluxing suspension of ZrCl_4 in diethyl

ether. The solid gradually dissolved and the reflux was continued for 16 h. The solution was cooled to room temperature, concentrated until $\text{Zr}(\text{thd})_2\text{Cl}_2$ started to precipitate. The precipitate was redissolved in minimum amount of ether; the solution was filtered and placed in the freezer ($-20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$) for 40 hours. The white precipitate that formed, was filtered and dried under nitrogen. Yield: 75 – 90%.

b) $\text{Zr}(\text{thd})_2(\text{OSiMe}_3)_2$. Aliquots of $\text{Zr}(\text{thd})_2\text{Cl}_2$ and LiOSiMe_3 in one to two molar ratio were suspended in pentane and this mixture was stirred for 16 hours. Upon separation of LiCl by filtration, the slightly yellow solution was evaporated to dryness to give $\text{Zr}(\text{thd})_2(\text{OSiMe}_3)_2$ in ca. 65% yield.

EXAMPLE 2

Synthesis of $\text{Zr}(\text{O-SiEt}_3)_4$

Standard Schlenk techniques were used with nitrogen as the inert gas. A 10% excess of HOSiEt_3 (4.1 equivalents) dissolved in benzene was added dropwise over the period of two hours into a refluxing solution of $\text{Zr}(\text{O}^i\text{Pr})_4$ in benzene at a rate which approximated that of benzene/isopropanol azeotrope distilling from the reaction flask. After the addition was complete, the reflux was continued until all of benzene was distilled out. Excess silanol was removed under 0.2 torr vacuum at temperatures below $100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. Then, the temperature was raised and the clear liquid product distilled at $147\text{ }^\circ\text{C}/0.1\text{ torr}$. Yield: 82%.

EXAMPLE 3

An organic solution (octane) comprising zirconium bis(trimethylsiloxide) bis(2,2,7,7-tetramethyl-3,5-heptandionate) was delivered by liquid delivery to a heated vaporization zone and transported into a CVD reactor. The vapor stream was reacted at a substrate

heated to elevated temperatures (300 – 700 C) in an oxidizing environment to deposit a zirconium silicate gate dielectric thin-film. The ratio of the Zr/Si was controlled by using specific CVD process conditions or via the co-addition of a second non-silicon containing Zr source [i.e., zirconium tetrakis(2,2,7,7-tetramethyl-3,5-heptandionate), zirconium bis(alcoxide) bis(2,2,7,7-tetramethyl-3,5-heptandionate) or zirconium oxo 2,2,7,7-tetramethyl-3,5-heptandionate) dimer] to increase the Zr content in the deposited film or with a non-zirconium containing silicon tetra(alcoxide) to increase the Si content in the deposited film.

10

EXAMPLE 4

An organic solution (octane) comprising hafnium bis(trimethylsiloxide) bis(2,2,7,7-tetramethyl-3,5-heptandionate) was delivered by liquid delivery to a heated vaporization zone and transported into a CVD reactor. The vapor stream was reacted at a substrate heated to elevated temperatures (300 – 700 C) in an oxidizing environment to deposit a hafnium silicate gate dielectric thin-film. The ratio of the Hf/Si was controlled by using specific CVD process conditions or via the co-addition of a second non-silicon containing Hf source [i.e., hafnium tetrakis(2,2,7,7-tetramethyl-3,5-heptandionate), hafnium bis(alcoxide) bis(2,2,7,7-tetramethyl-3,5-heptandionate) or hafnium alcoxide precursor] to increase the Hf content in the deposited film or with a non-hafnium containing silicon tetra(alcoxide) to increase the Si content in the deposited film.

15

20

EXAMPLE 5

A neat liquid comprising zirconium tetrakis(triethylsiloxide) was delivered by liquid delivery to a heated vaporization zone and transported into a CVD reactor. The vapor stream was reacted at a substrate heated to elevated temperatures (300 – 700 C) in an

25

oxidizing environment to deposit a zirconium silicate gate dielectric thin-film. The ratio of the Zr/Si was controlled by using specific CVD process conditions (temperature, pressure, flows, etc.) or via the co-addition of a second non-silicon containing liquid Zr source [i.e., zirconium tetrakis(2,2,7,7-tetramethyl-3,5-heptandionate), zirconium bis(alcoxide) bis(2,2,7,7-tetramethyl-3,5-heptandionate) or zirconium tetrakis(t-butoxide)] to increase the Zr content in the deposited film or with a non-zirconium containing silicon species, such as silicon tetra(ethoxide) to increase the Si content in the deposited film.

EXAMPLE 6

10 A neat liquid comprising hafnium tetrakis(triethylsiloxide) was delivered by liquid delivery to a heated vaporization zone and transported into a CVD reactor. The vapor stream was reacted at a substrate heated to elevated temperatures (300 – 700 C) in an oxidizing environment to deposit a zirconium silicate gate dielectric thin-film. The ratio of the Hf/Si was controlled by using specific CVD process conditions (temperature, pressure, flows, etc.) or via the co-addition of a second non-silicon containing liquid Hf source [i.e., hafnium tetrakis(2,2,7,7-tetramethyl-3,5-heptandionate), hafnium bis(alcoxide) bis(2,2,7,7-tetramethyl-3,5-heptandionate) or hafnium tetrakis(t-butoxide)] to increase the Hf content in the deposited film or with a non-hafnium containing silicon species, such as silicon tetra(ethoxide) to increase the Si content in the deposited film.

EXAMPLE 7

25 A neat liquid comprising zirconium tetrakis(trialkylsiloxide) was delivered by liquid delivery to a heated vaporization zone and transported into a CVD reactor. The vapor stream was reacted at a substrate heated to elevated temperatures (300 – 700 C) in an oxidizing environment to deposit a zirconium silicate gate dielectric thin-film. The ratio of

the Zr/Si was controlled by using specific CVD process conditions (temperature, pressure, flows, etc.) to deposit a film that exhibited similar stoichiometry as that found in the atomic ratios of elements in the precursor source. Thus, a non-stoichiometric zirconium silicate could be directly deposited from a single source precursor. The deposited film stoichiometry could be altered by the co-addition of a second non-silicon containing liquid Zr source to increase the Zr content in the deposited film or with a non-zirconium containing silicon species to increase the Si content in the deposited film.

EXAMPLE 8

A neat liquid comprising hafnium tetrakis(trialkylsiloxide) was delivered by liquid delivery to a heated vaporization zone and transported into a CVD reactor. The vapor stream was reacted at a substrate heated to elevated temperatures (300 – 700 C) in an oxidizing environment to deposit a hafnium silicate gate dielectric thin-film. The ratio of the Hf/Si was controlled by using specific CVD process conditions (temperature, pressure, flows, etc.) to deposit a film that exhibited similar stoichiometry as that found in the atomic ratios of elements in the precursor source. Thus, a non-stoichiometric hafnium silicate could be directly deposited from a single source precursor. The deposited film stoichiometry could be altered by the co-addition of a second non-silicon containing liquid Hf source to increase the Hf content in the deposited film or with a non-hafnium containing silicon species to increase the Si content in the deposited film.

Although the invention has been variously disclosed herein with reference to illustrative embodiments and features, it will be appreciated that the embodiments and features described hereinabove are not intended to limit the invention, and that other variations, modifications and other embodiments will suggest themselves to those of ordinary skill in the art. The invention therefore is to be broadly construed, consistent with the claims hereafter set forth.

THE CLAIMS**What Is Claimed Is:**

1. A CVD precursor composition for forming a metal silicate film on a substrate, such
5 precursor composition including a source reagent selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) single source precursors for forming zirconium silicate thin films, wherein the precursor is a compound or coordinated complex containing Zr, O and Si as constituents thereof;
 - 10 (b) single source precursors for forming hafnium silicate thin films, wherein the precursor is a compound or coordinated complex containing Hf, O and Si as constituents thereof;
 - (c) a precursor mixture comprising (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including a silicon alcoxide (siloxide) ligand coordinated to a metal M, wherein M
15 = Zr or Hf and (2) a second precursor metal compound or complex including an aliphatic alcoxide ligand coordinated to a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M/Si ratio in the deposited silicate thin film;
 - 20 (d) a precursor mixture comprising (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf and (2) a second precursor silicon compound or complex not containing such metal M, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed

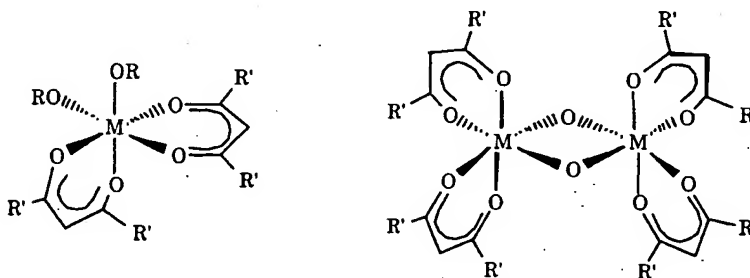
to controllably establish the desired M_x/Si_{1-x} ratio in the deposited silicate thin film wherein x is from 0.01 to 0.99;

- 5 (e) a precursor mixture comprising (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein $M = Zr$ or Hf and (2) a second precursor silicon compound or complex additionally containing such metal M, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M_x/Si_{1-x} ratio in the deposited silicate thin film wherein x is from 0.01 to 0.99;
- 10 (f) a precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein $M = Zr$ or Hf , at least one alcoxide ligand and at least one β -diketonate ligand, such precursor metal compound or complex optionally further containing silicon;
- 15 (g) the precursor metal compound or complex (d) wherein the second precursor silicon compound or complex not containing such metal M is a gas at STP and the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M_x/Si_{1-x} ratio in the deposited silicate thin film wherein x is from 0.01 to 0.99;
- (h) the precursor metal compound or complex (e) not containing silicon, in combination with a second silicon-containing precursor compound or complex;
- 20 (i) the precursor metal compound or complex (e) further containing silicon, in combination with a second non-silicon-containing precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein $M = Zr$ or Hf ; and
- (j) compatible mixtures of any two or more of the foregoing species (a)-(i).

2. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, further comprising a solvent medium.

3. The CVD precursor composition of claim 2, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of ethers, glymes, tetraglymes, amines, polyamines, alcohols, glycols, aliphatic hydrocarbon solvents, aromatic hydrocarbon solvents, cyclic ethers, and compatible combinations of two or more of the foregoing.
4. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, comprising a source reagent (a).
5. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, comprising a source reagent (b).
6. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, comprising a source reagent (c).
7. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, comprising a source reagent (d).
8. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, comprising a source reagent (e).
9. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, comprising a source reagent (f).
10. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, comprising a source reagent (g).
11. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, comprising a source reagent (h).
12. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, comprising a source reagent (i).

13. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, comprising a source reagent (j).
14. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, comprising a metal β -diketonate source reagent selected from the group consisting of those of the formula:



5

wherein:

M is Zr or Hf;

each R is independently selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_8 alkyl and trialkylsilyl whose alkyl substituents are each independently selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_8 alkyl; and each R' is independently selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_8 alkyl, halo and C_1 - C_8 haloalkyl.

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15. The CVD precursor composition of claim 14, wherein M is Zr.

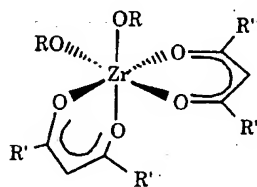
- 15 16. The CVD precursor composition of claim 14, wherein M is Hf.

17. The CVD precursor composition of claim 14, wherein the source reagent comprises a β -diketonate moiety selected from the group consisting of acac, tfac, hfac, thd, tod, and fod.

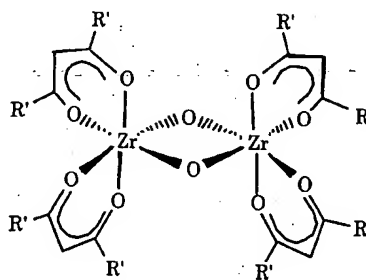
18. The CVD precursor composition of claim 14, wherein each R is t-butyl or trimethylsilyl and each R' is t-butyl.
- 5 19. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, wherein the source reagent comprises a single source compound selected from the group consisting of Zr bis(trimethylsiloxide) bis(thd), tetrakis(trimethylsiloxide) zirconium, tetrakis(trimethylsiloxide) hafnium, and Hf bis(trimethylsiloxide) bis(thd).
- 10 20. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, wherein the source reagent comprises an aliphatic alcoxide of hafnium, and a Si-containing precursor.
21. The CVD precursor composition of claim 20, wherein the Si-containing precursor comprises a silicon alcoxide ligand.
- 15 22. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, wherein the source reagent comprises (1) a first metal- and silicon-containing precursor, and (2) a metal-containing/silicon-free precursor or a metal-free/silicon-containing precursor.
- 20 23. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, wherein the source reagent comprises tetrakis(trimethylsiloxide) zirconium and tetrakis(t-butoxide) zirconium.
24. The CVD precursor composition of claim 23, further comprising octane.

25. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, wherein the source reagent comprises tetrakis(trimethylsiloxide) hafnium and tetrakis (t-butoxide) hafnium.
26. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, comprising a first source reagent containing silicon and a second source reagent containing Zr or Hf, wherein the first and second source reagents contain compatible ligands which do not undergo ligand exchange reaction under precursor vaporization and deposition conditions.
27. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, comprising a first source reagent containing silicon, a second source reagent containing Zr or Hf, and a solvent, wherein the first and second source reagents contain compatible ligands which do not undergo ligand exchange reaction under precursor vaporization and deposition conditions.
28. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, wherein the source reagent comprises tetrakis (t-butoxy) zirconium and tetrakis (t-butoxy) silane.
29. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, wherein the source reagent comprises alcoxides of Zr and/or Hf and alcoxides of Si, wherein the same alcoxide ligand species selected from the group consisting of methoxides, ethoxides, i-propoxides, t-butoxides, and trialkylsiloxides, are present in each of the alcoxides of Zr and/or Hf and alcoxides of Si.

30. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, wherein the source reagent comprises metal alcoxide β -diketonate mixtures in which one of the metal alcoxide β -diketonate precursors contains silicon, and a second of the metal alcoxide β -diketonate precursors does not contain silicon.
31. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, wherein the source reagent comprises a mixture of $\text{Zr}(\text{O-SiMe}_3)_2(\text{thd})_2$ and a silicon-free precursor selected from the group consisting of bis(alcoxide) bis(thd) zirconium, tetrakis(thd) zirconium and oxo zirconium bis(thd) dimer.
32. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, wherein the source reagent comprises $\text{Zr}(\text{O-SiMe}_3)_2(\text{thd})_2$ and $\text{Zr}(\text{thd})_4$.
33. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, wherein the source reagent comprises $\text{Zr}(\text{O-SiMe}_3)_2(\text{thd})_2$ and $[\text{O}=\text{Zr}(\text{thd})_2]$.
34. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, comprising a source reagent selected from the group consisting of those of the formulae:



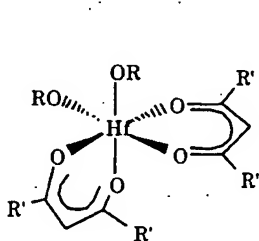
I.



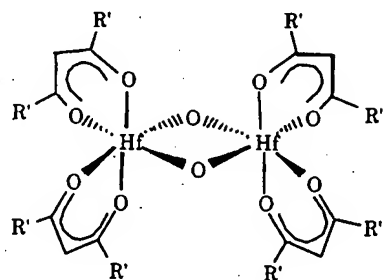
II.

wherein R is t-butyl or trimethylsilyl and R' is t-butyl.

35. The CVD precursor composition of claim 1, comprising a source reagent selected from the group consisting of those of the formulae:



III.



IV.

wherein each R is independently selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, i-propyl, n-butyl and trimethylsilyl, and each R' is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, halo, and haloalkyl wherein the alkyl substituent is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, i-propyl, and n-butyl.

36. A method of forming a metal silicate gate dielectric film on a substrate, comprising vaporizing a precursor composition to form a precursor vapor, and contacting the precursor vapor with a substrate at elevated temperature to deposit the metal silicate gate dielectric film on the substrate, wherein the precursor composition includes a source reagent selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) single source precursors for forming zirconium silicate thin films, wherein the precursor is a compound or coordinated complex containing Zr, O and Si as constituents thereof;
- (b) single source precursors for forming hafnium silicate thin films, wherein the precursor is a compound or coordinated complex containing Hf, O and Si as constituents thereof;
- (c) a precursor mixture comprising (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including a silicon alcoxide (siloxide) ligand coordinated to a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf and (2) a second precursor metal compound or complex including an aliphatic alcoxide ligand coordinated to a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M_x/Si_{1-x} ratio in the deposited silicate thin film wherein x is from 0.01 to 0.99;
- (d) a precursor mixture comprising (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf and (2) a second precursor silicon compound or complex not containing such metal M, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the M_x/Si_{1-x} ratio in the deposited silicate thin film wherein x is from 0.01 to 0.99;
- (e) a precursor mixture comprising (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf and (2) a second precursor silicon compound or complex additionally containing such metal M, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed.

to controllably establish the desired M_x/Si_{1-x} ratio in the deposited silicate thin film wherein x is from 0.01 to 0.99;

- 5 (f) a precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf, at least one alcoxide ligand and at least one β -diketonate ligand, such precursor metal compound or complex optionally further containing silicon;
- (g) the precursor metal compound or complex (d) wherein the second precursor silicon compound or complex not containing such metal M is a gas at STP and the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M_x/Si_{1-x} ratio in the deposited silicate thin film
10 wherein x is from 0.01 to 0.99;
- (h) the precursor metal compound or complex (e) not containing silicon, in combination with a second silicon-containing precursor compound or complex;
- (i) the precursor metal compound or complex (e) further containing silicon, in combination with a second non-silicon-containing precursor metal compound or
15 complex including a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf; and
- (j) compatible mixtures of any two or more of the foregoing species (a)-(i).
37. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition further comprises a solvent medium.
- 20 38. The method of claim 37, wherein the solvent medium comprises a solvent selected from the group consisting of ethers, glymes, tetraglymes, amines, polyamines, alcohols, glycols, aliphatic hydrocarbon solvents, aromatic hydrocarbon solvents, cyclic ethers, and compatible combinations of two or more of the foregoing.

39. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises a source reagent (a).
- 5 40. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises a source reagent (b).
41. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises a source reagent (c).
- 10 42. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises a source reagent (d).
43. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises a source reagent (e).
- 15 44. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises a source reagent (f).
- 20 45. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises a source reagent (g).
46. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises a source reagent (h).

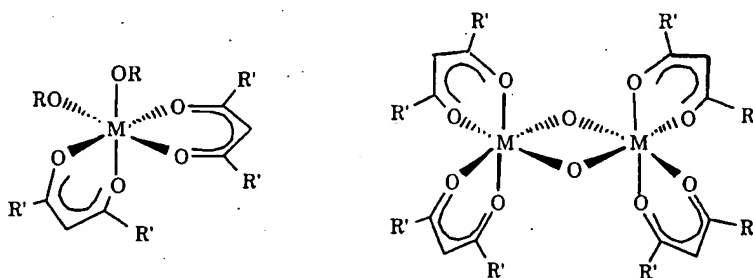
47. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises a source reagent (i).

5 48. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises a source reagent (i).

49. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises a source reagent (j).

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50. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises a metal alcoxide β -diketonate source reagent selected from the group consisting of those of the formula:



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wherein:

M is Zr or Hf;

each R is independently selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_8 alkyl and trialkylsilyl whose alkyl substituents are each independently selected from the

group consisting of C₁-C₈ alkyl; and each R' is independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₈ alkyl, halo and C₁-C₈ haloalkyl.

51. The method of claim 50, wherein M is Zr.

52. The method of claim 50, wherein M is Hf.

53. The method of claim 50, wherein the source reagent comprises a β -diketonate moiety

selected from the group consisting of acac, tfac, hfac, thd, tod, and fod.

54. The method of claim 50, wherein each R is t-butyl or trimethylsilyl and each R' is t-butyl.

55. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises a single source compound selected from the group consisting of Zr(OSiMe₃)₂(thd)₂, Zr(OSiMe₃)₄, Hf(OSiMe₃)₄, and Hf(OSiMe₃)₂(thd)₂.

56. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises an aliphatic alcoxide of hafnium, and a Si-containing precursor.

57. The method of claim 56, wherein the Si-containing precursor comprises a silicon alcoxide ligand.

58. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises (1) a first metal- and silicon-containing precursor, and (2) a metal-containing/silicon-free precursor or a metal-free/silicon-containing precursor.

5 59. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises $\text{Zr}(\text{OSiMe}_3)_4$ and $\text{Zr}(\text{O-tBu})_4$

60. The method of claim 59, further comprising octane.

10 61. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises $\text{Hf}(\text{OSiMe}_3)_4$ and $\text{Hf}(\text{O-tBu})_4$.

62. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises a first source reagent containing silicon and a second source reagent containing Zr or Hf, wherein the first and second source reagents contain compatible ligands which do not undergo ligand exchange reaction under precursor vaporization and deposition conditions.

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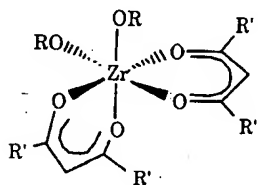
63. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises $\text{Zr}(\text{O-tBu})_4$ and $\text{Si}(\text{O-tBu})_4$.

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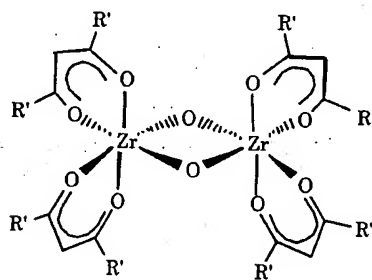
64. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises alcoxides of Zr and/or Hf and alcoxides of Si, wherein the same alcoxide ligand species selected from the group consisting of methoxides, ethoxides, i-propoxides, t-butoxides, and

trialkylsiloxides, are present in each of the alcoxides of Zr and/or Hf and alcoxides of Si.

65. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises metal
 5 alcoxide β -diketonate mixtures in which one of the metal alcoxide β -diketonate
 precursors contains silicon, and a second of the metal alcoxide β -diketonate
 precursors does not contain silicon.
66. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises a mixture of
 10 $\text{Zr}(\text{OSiMe}_3)_2(\text{thd})_2$, and a silicon-free precursor selected from the group consisting
 of $\text{Zr}(\text{alcoxide})_2(\text{thd})_2$, and $\text{Zr}(\text{thd})_4$.
67. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises $\text{Zr}(\text{O}-$
 $\text{SiMe}_3)_2(\text{thd})_2$ and $\text{Zr}(\text{thd})_4$.
68. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises a source
 15 reagent selected from the group consisting of those of the formulae:



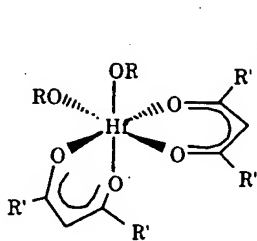
I.



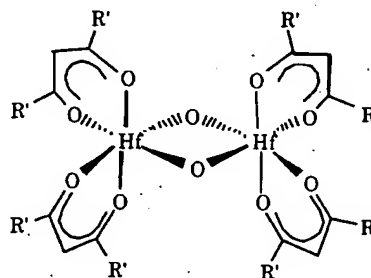
II.

wherein R is t-butyl or trimethylsilyl and R' is t-butyl.

69. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises a source reagent selected from the group consisting of those of the formulae:



III.



IV.

wherein each R is independently selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, i-propyl, n-butyl and trimethylsilyl, and each R' is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, halo, and haloalkyl wherein the alkyl substituent is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, i-propyl, and n-butyl.

70. The method of claim 36, wherein the precursor composition comprises incompatible metal and silicon precursors, and the step of contacting the precursor vapor with a substrate at elevated temperature to deposit on the substrate the metal silicate gate dielectric film comprises pulsed chemical vapor deposition, in which the incompatible precursors are separated both temporally and spatially to limit particle formation and undesired ligand exchange reactions.

71. A CVD precursor vapor composition for forming a metal silicate film on a substrate, such precursor composition including a source reagent selected from the group consisting of:

5

(a) single source precursors for forming zirconium silicate thin films, wherein the precursor is a compound or coordinated complex containing Zr, O and Si as constituents thereof;

10

(b) single source precursors for forming hafnium silicate thin films, wherein the precursor is a compound or coordinated complex containing Hf, O and Si as constituents thereof;

15

(c) a precursor mixture comprising (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including a silicon alcoxide (siloxide) ligand coordinated to a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf and (2) a second precursor metal compound or complex including an aliphatic alcoxide ligand coordinated to a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M_x/Si_{1-x} ratio in the deposited silicate thin film wherein x is from 0.01 to 0.99;

20

(d) a precursor mixture comprising (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf and (2) a second precursor silicon compound or complex not containing such metal M, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M_x/Si_{1-x} ratio in the deposited silicate thin film wherein x is from 0.01 to 0.99;

- (e) a precursor mixture comprising (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein $M = \text{Zr}$ or Hf and (2) a second precursor silicon compound or complex additionally containing such metal M, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M_x/Si_{1-x} ratio in the deposited silicate thin film wherein x is from 0.01 to 0.99;
- (f) a precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein $M = \text{Zr}$ or Hf , at least one alcoxide ligand and at least one β -diketonate ligand, such precursor metal compound or complex optionally further containing silicon;
- (g) the precursor metal compound or complex (d) wherein the second precursor silicon compound or complex not containing such metal M is a gas at STP and the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M_x/Si_{1-x} ratio in the deposited silicate thin film wherein x is from 0.01 to 0.99;
- (h) the precursor metal compound or complex (e) not containing silicon, in combination with a second silicon-containing precursor compound or complex;
- (i) the precursor metal compound or complex (e) further containing silicon, in combination with a second non-silicon-containing precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein $M = \text{Zr}$ or Hf ; and
- (j) compatible mixtures of any two or more of the foregoing species (a)-(i).
72. A metal silicate thin film deposited on a substrate via CVD from a precursor composition including a source reagent selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) single source precursors for forming zirconium silicate thin films, wherein the precursor is a compound or coordinated complex containing Zr, O and Si as constituents thereof;
- (b) single source precursors for forming hafnium silicate thin films, wherein the precursor is a compound or coordinated complex containing Hf, O and Si as constituents thereof;
- (c) a precursor mixture comprising (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including a silicon alcoxide (siloxide) ligand coordinated to a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf and (2) a second precursor metal compound or complex including an aliphatic alcoxide ligand coordinated to a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired $M/Si\ M_x/Si_{1-x}$ ratio in the deposited silicate thin film wherein x is from 0.01 to 0.99;
- (d) a precursor mixture comprising (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf and (2) a second precursor silicon compound or complex not containing such metal M, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired $M/Si\ M_x/Si_{1-x}$ ratio in the deposited silicate thin film wherein x is from 0.01 to 0.99;
- (e) a precursor mixture comprising (1) a first precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf and (2) a second precursor silicon compound or complex additionally containing such metal M, wherein the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed

to controllably establish the desired M_x/Si_{1-x} ratio in the deposited silicate thin film wherein x is from 0.01 to 0.99;

- 5 (f) a precursor metal compound or complex including a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf, at least one alcoxide ligand and at least one β -diketonate ligand, such precursor metal compound or complex optionally further containing silicon;
- (g) the precursor metal compound or complex (d) wherein the second precursor silicon compound or complex not containing such metal M is a gas at STP and the relative proportions of the first and second precursors relative to one another are employed to controllably establish the desired M_x/Si_{1-x} ratio in the deposited silicate thin film
- 10 wherein x is from 0.01 to 0.99;
- (h) the precursor metal compound or complex (e) not containing silicon, in combination with a second silicon-containing precursor compound or complex;
- (i) the precursor metal compound or complex (e) further containing silicon, in combination with a second non-silicon-containing precursor metal compound or
- 15 complex including a metal M, wherein M = Zr or Hf; and
- (j) compatible mixtures of any two or more of the foregoing species (a)-(i).

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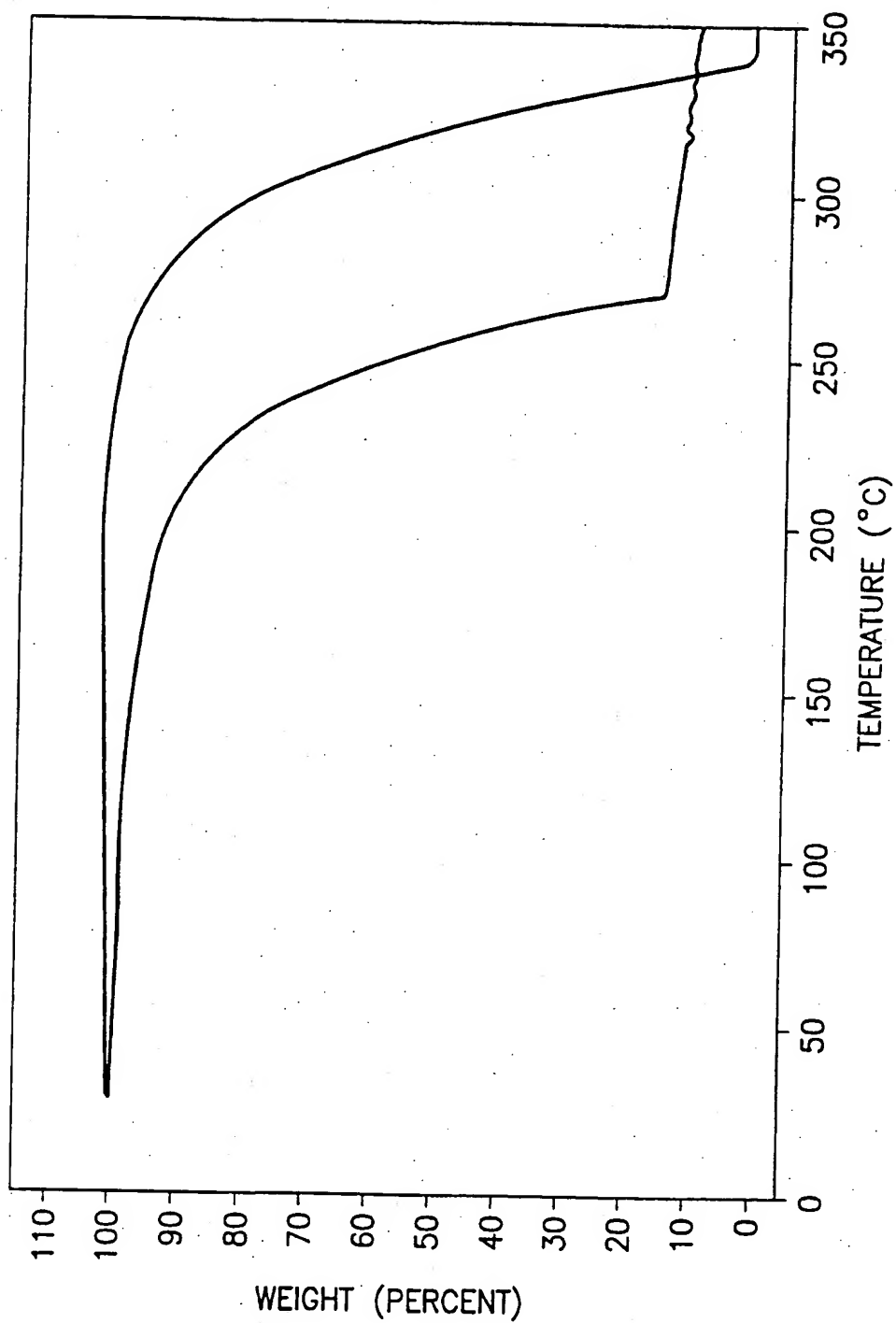


FIG. 1

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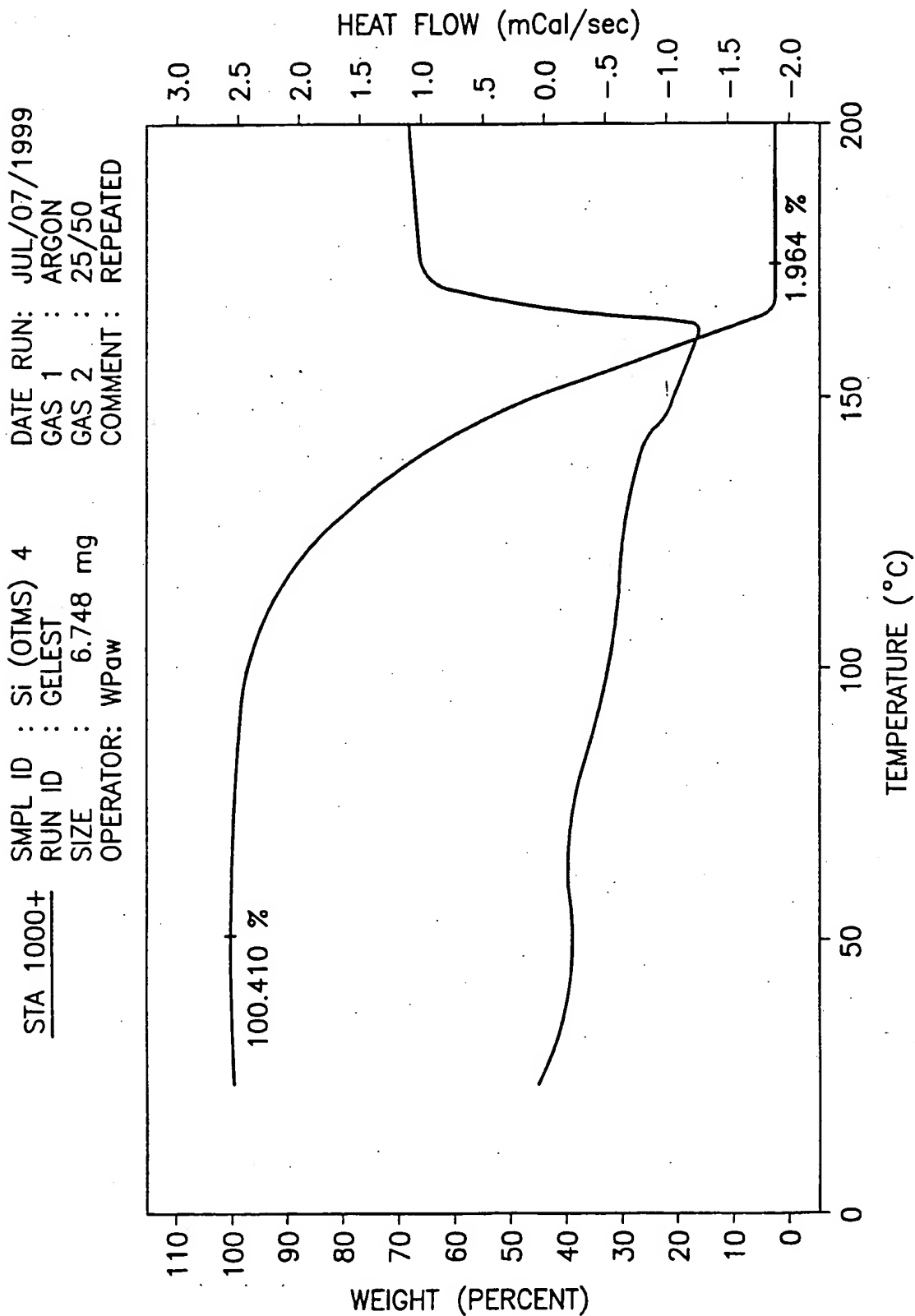
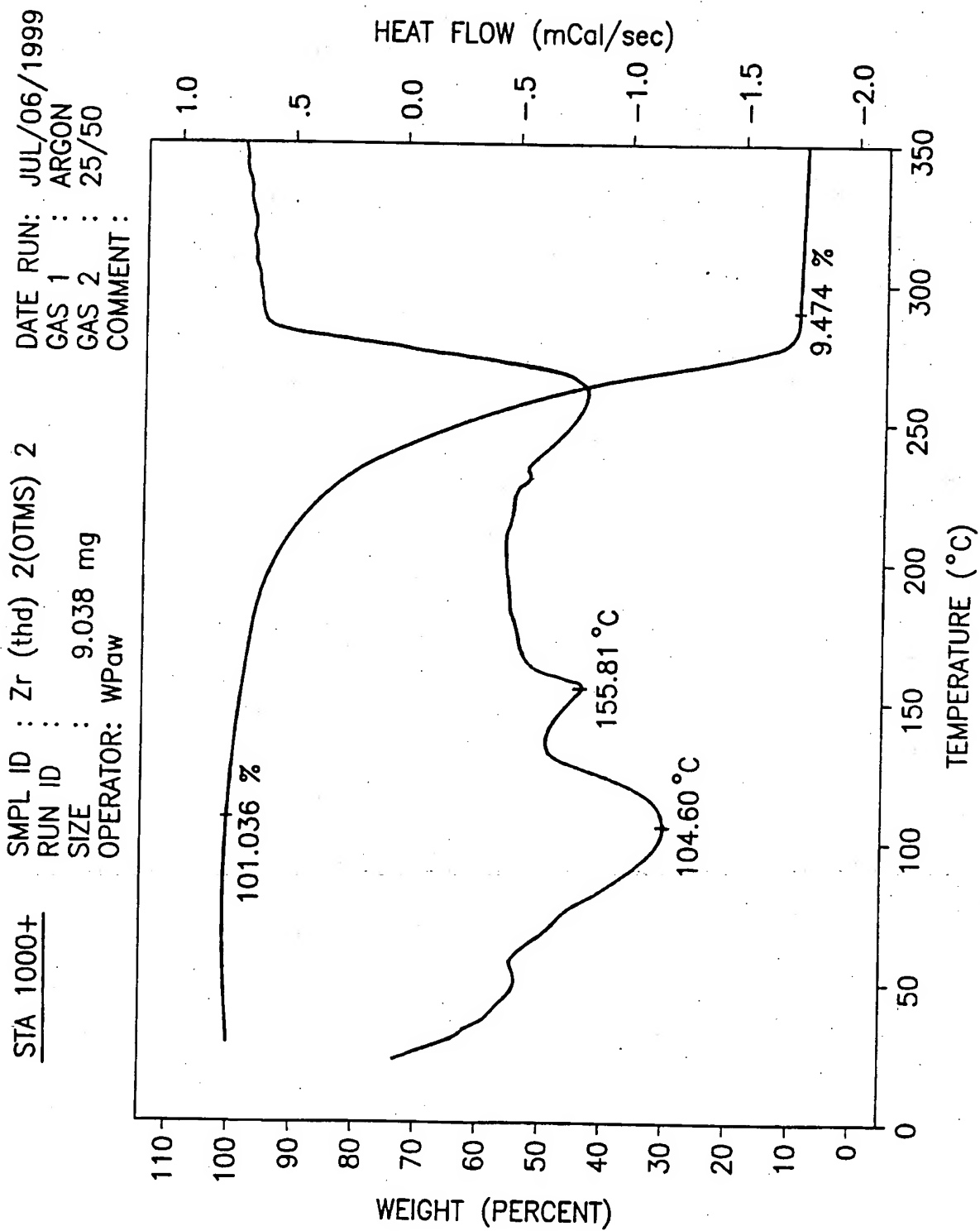


FIG.2

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FIG.3



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STA 1000+
SMPL ID : Si (OTMS) 4
RUN ID : GELEST
SIZE : 6.260 mg
OPERATOR: WPaw
DATE RUN: JUL/06/1999
GAS 1 : ARGON
GAS 2 : 25/50
COMMENT :

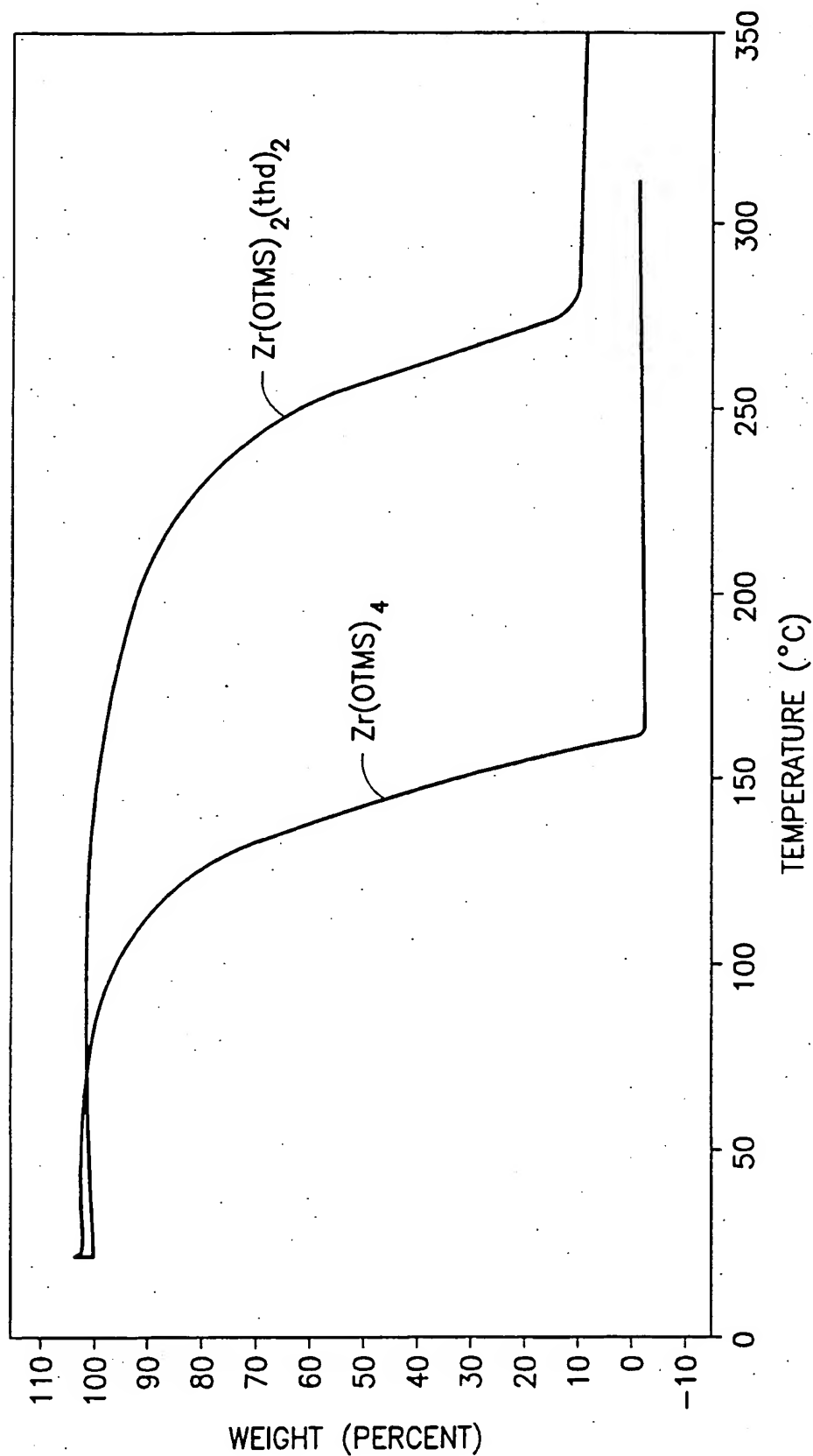


FIG.4

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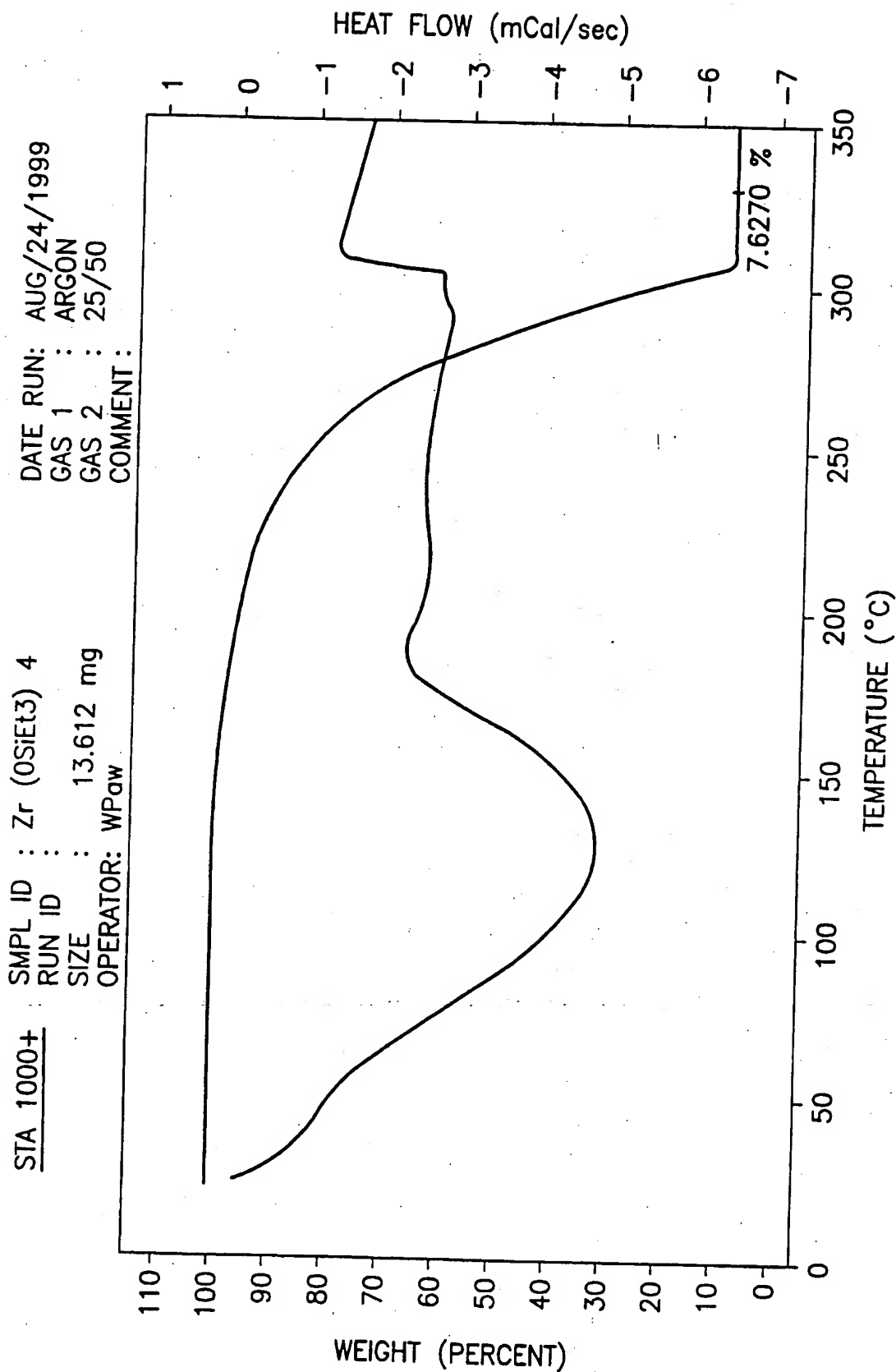


FIG.5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/27163

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : C23C 16/18, 16/40; C09D 1/00

US CL : Please See Extra Sheet.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 106/1.12, 1.22, 286.4, 287.13, 287.16, 287.14; 427/487, 489, 497, 503, 585, 255.28, 255.37; 428/446, 470, 689

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

None

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WEST, NPL

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,635,250 A (BLUM et al) 03 June 1997, col. 7, lines 1-66.	1-72
Y	US 5,820,664 A (GARDINER et al) 13 October 1998, col. 3, lines 21-66 and col. 5, lines 1-66.	1-72
Y	US 4,122,109 A (HALM) 24 October 1978, col. 8, lines 7-66.	1-72
A	US 5,454,861 A (HASEGAWA et al) 03 October 1995.	1-72
A	US 5,104,690 A (GREENWALD) 14 April 1992.	1-72
A	US 5,688,979 A (LEE et al) 18 November 1997.	1-72

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.
 ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents.	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
E earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*Z* document member of the same patent family
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 JANUARY 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

26 JAN 2001

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US00/27163

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER:
US CL :

106/1.12, 1.22, 286.4, 287.13, 287.16, 287.14; 427/487, 489, 497, 503, 585, 255.28, 255.37; 428/ 446, 470, 689